

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 COTONO 00253 121524Z

42

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 IO-11 ISO-00 AID-05 PRS-01 INRE-00 SSO-00

NSCE-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 L-03 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 /060 W

----- 051455

O R 121430Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY COTONOU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8140

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

USMISSION USUN NY

C O N F I D E N T I A L COTONOU 0253

ABIDJAN FOR REDSO; NIAMEY FOR RDO; DEPT PASS ALSO AID/AFR/CWR

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, DM, US

SUBJ: AMBASSADOR'S MEETING WITH PRESIDENT KEREKOU

REF A - COTONOU 249, B - STATE 34136,

1. PRES KEREKOU SUMMOMED ME TO HIS OFFICE THIS NOON PER REF A. AS USUAL, HE FAILED TO GET UP TO ACKNOWLEDGE MY PRESENCE. THIS TIME HOWEVER HE ALSO FAILED TO GREET ME, THOUGH HE LET ME SIT DOWN. AFTER SOME GRUNTING, HE LOOKED AT ME MENACINGLY AS IF HE WERE AN AFRICAN HIMMLER AND EXCLAIMED LOUDLY THAT HE WAS DISSATISFIED WITH THE BAD STATE OF RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES. HE WAS NOT A DIPLOMAT, BUT ACCUSTOMED TO COMING STRAIGHT TO THE POINT. HE SAID THE MOMENT OF DECISION HAD ARRIVED. AFTER GRUNTING FURTHER, HE SHOUTED AT ME: "THAT IS ALL*" (C'EST TOUT) AND MADE A SWEEPING MOTION WITH HIS ARM AS IF HE WISHED ME TO LEAVE.

2. I AROSE AND THRUST IN FRONT OF HIM THE TEXT OF THE DEPT'S AIDE MEMOIRE (REF B). I EXPLAINED THAT I HAD RECEIVED MY INSTRUCTIONS, INCLUDING THE AIDE MEMOIRE, ONLY TWO HOURS
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 COTONO 00253 121524Z

BEFORE MY AUDIENCE. CONSEQUENTLY, THE FRENCH TRANSLATION OF

IT HAD BEEN SO HURRIED THAT I HAD NOT BEEN ABLE TO CHECK IT FOR ACCURACY. I SAID BENIN'S AMB IN WASHINGTON HAD BEEN GIVEN THE SAME DOCUMENT YESTERDAY.

3. KEREKOU, STUNNED BY THE UNEXPECTED NEW ELEMENT IN THE SITUATION BUT STILL SNORTING, STARTED TO READ THE FRNECH TRANSLATION. BY THE TIME HE HAD REACHED THE SECOND OR THIRD PARAGRAPH, I COULD TELL BY HIS SQUINTING THAT HE COULD UNDERSTAND NOTHING OF IT. HE GRABBED THE TELEPHONE AND ASKED THAT THE FOREIGN MINISTER BE CALLED TO JOIN US IMMEDIATELY. MINISTER COULD NOT BE REACHED. PRESIDENT THEN TOLD ME TO "GET OUT". I COULD WAIT SOMEWHERE ELSE WHILE HE "ARRANGED A CONFRONTATION."

4. AFTER WAITING TWENTY MINUTES OUTSIDE, I WAS TOLD THAT THE FOREIGN MINISTER HAD ARRIVED. I WOULD BE CALLED IN WHEN HE AND THE PRESIDENT WISHED TO SEE ME. SOME TIME LATER, I WAS ASKED TO RETURN AT 4 PM LOCAL TIME. WILL REPORT OUTCOME OF THE NEXT ROUND AS SOON AS IT IS OVER.
ENGLE

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, DIPLOMATIC PROTOCOL, MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 12 FEB 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ElyME
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976COTONO00253
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760053-1084
From: COTONOU
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760257/aaaabxeh.tel
Line Count: 81
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 COTONOU 249, 76 STATE 34136
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ElyME
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 14 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <14 MAY 2004 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <08 SEP 2004 by ElyME>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: AMBASSADOR'S MEETING WITH PRESIDENT KEREKOU
TAGS: PFOR, DM, US, (KEREKOU, MATHIEU)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006